

ToughTimes

EMAIL | TOUGHTIMESTABLOID@GMAIL.COM

Vol. 6 No. 6/ November-December, 2017

Will the HOUSE become his home?

Peel's Jagmeet Singh
leads Canada's NDP

Jagmeet Singh is the newly-selected leader of Canada's New Democratic Party.

A member of the Ontario Legislature since 2011 and Deputy Leader of the NDP Caucus there for the last two years, he is a lawyer, a karate whiz, and

has already proved his skill at deflecting hecklers, racists and other ill ilk.

His message to his supporters here in Peel:

"I firmly believe that a leader can't accomplish anything without a team - so

I would like to thank all of our supporters, volunteers and friends in the Peel Region who have been there to power this team from day one. We started a movement in Peel that was inclusive, and we took that message of love, openness and warmth across Canada

to inspire others to believe in our vision. It takes an act of love to realize that we are all in this together, and an act of courage to demand better, dream bigger and fight for a more just and inclusive world."

See more on pages 6 and 7

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

That time of month
Youngster meets veteran
Peel Muslims help the world
The brain in Spain...
Video volunteers
How does your garden grow?

P2
P3
P3
P4
P4
P5

Following Jagmeet...
The world from a wheelchair
Labour on the march
Not enough to live on
Getting older, getting help

P6
P7
P8
P10
P11

Happy Holidays



PEEL POVERTY ACTION GROUP

Peel Poverty Action Group (PPAG) is open to every individual and organization in Peel Region that cares about what poverty does to people. It provides a safe place where people who are cash-poor and those who try to help them are encouraged to speak out – and *Tough Times* is part of that safe place.

The Group's mandate is to advocate for people in need and to educate the public about poverty issues. Membership is free. PPAG meets at 9:30 a.m. the third Thursday of every month (except July and August) alternately in Mississauga at the Newcomer Centre of Peel, 165 Dundas St. W., at Confederation Parkway; in Brampton at the John Howard Society, 134 Main St. N., just south of Church St.

Meetings for 2017

Brampton: November 16

Mississauga: celebration event Dec. 7

Meetings for 2018

Brampton: January 18, March 15, May 17.

Mississauga: February 15, April 19, June 21

www.ppag.wordpress.com

Homeless: The Video

Spaces and Places: Uncovering Homelessness in the Region of Peel is a 15-minute video in which homeless people describe their experiences. A team from PPAG, including a once-homeless person, will show the video to a group on request. There is no charge. To book a showing contact ppagactiongroup@gmail.com. Allow about 45 minutes for the video and discussion.

The video was made by a team from York University, in cooperation with the Social Planning Council of Peel, financed by a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

You can buy *Spaces and Places* on a memory stick for \$50. Email ppagactiongroup@gmail.com or phone 905 826-5041.

Power Packs for that time of month – for guys, as well as gals

If you don't have money, menstruation can be a hassle. You need pads or tampons, the means to clean up and stay fresh.

That's why Catholic Family Services in Peel-Dufferin describes the Power Packs they provide as "harm reduction menstruation kits for those who identify as female who are financially struggling, homeless or at risk of being homeless."

The Power Packs consist of donated pads, tampons, feminine hygiene wipes and new underwear.

Power Packs for males include a donated and unused pair of boxers, deodorant and body spray or body wash. The Packs are given to men in the same situation as women receiving menstruation kits "financially struggling, homeless or at risk of being homeless."

Note the word "donated" in the Pack descriptions. Companies in the

hygiene and other businesses are asked to donate products and new undies for needy people.

If you can help, email Alexandra Medeiros at amedeiros@cfspd.com or phone 905 450-1608 ext. 120

Medeiros is the Youth Advocate for Catholic Family Services, and was running a program Good Food Brampton, teaching young folk how to cook. These cooks-in-the-making are the inspiration and recipients of Power Packs.

The overall mission of the cooking courses is to provide education on simple, affordable and healthy meals, so youth can learn to grow and cook healthy meals at home and make the most of a limited budget.

You never know what can come out of the pot when you learn to cook.



Business is dooming

Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy for 2012-15 included the statement:

"Annually recognize a Peel-based company (small business or corporation) that is a champion for social issues and has illustrated a commitment to its employees, residents and community."

No champion business was found. No awards were made.

But Peel Poverty Reduction Strategy looks ahead:

"Between the time periods of 2012-2015 there were no Peel businesses recognized for playing a championship role in social issues. As we continue to refresh the strategy and move forward with the Living Wage campaign, employers that sign on to pay their employees a living wage will be recognized by the Peel Living Wage Network and the Ontario Living Wage Network."

Whatever.

ToughTimes

Tough Times is published six times a year

**Next issue: Jan.-Feb., 2018
Deadline for ads and editorial:
December 1, 2017**

All deadlines are the first day of the preceding month:
March-April, 2018 deadline: February 1
May-June, 2018: April 1
July-August, 2018: June 1^o

Phone 905 826-5041

Volunteer writers, reporters, artists, cartoonists, photographers, are welcome at *Tough Times*.

Please email letters to:

toughtimestabloid@gmail.com

Produced by:

Peel Poverty Action Group (PPAG)

Editor: Edna Toth

Associate Editors:

Michelle Bilek • Rosemary Keenan

Graphic Designer: Patti Moran

Contributors:

Huda Abbas, Samina Bangash, Michelle Bilek, Laura Bilyea, Dr. Simon Black, Shaila Kibria Carter, Dr. Paula DeCoito, Ryan Gurcharn, Linda Hochstetler, Shalini Konanur, Rosemary Keenan, Archana Medhekar, John Needham, Norma Nicholson, Coun. Carolyn Parrish, Sophia Ramsay, Karen Ras, Marina Rosas, Francine Sampogna, Lea Salameh, Sankofa, Bret Sheppard, Catherine Sople, Anna Sycz, Chelsea Tao, Edisiri Udoh, Emily Wiles, Cheryl Yarek.

Printed by: Atlantic Web Printers

Advertising Rates

Tough Times distributes 10,000 copies, throughout Peel Region.

Target audience is people experiencing homelessness, using food banks and soup kitchens, people who are struggling, plus faith groups, social service agencies, trades unions, business people, and the general public.

To advertise in Tough Times:

toughtimestabloid@gmail.com

Phone: 905 826-5041

Mail address: 4 - 287 Glidden Road
Brampton ON L6W 1H9, Canada

Advertising rates: (colour included)

Business card: \$90

1/16 page: \$100

1/8 page: \$155

1/4 page: \$240

1/2 page: \$430

3/4 page: \$600

Full page: \$755

A full page is approximately 10 inches wide by 12 inches deep = 120 square inches. E&OE

Dakota, sketching a bright future

BY BRET SHEPPARD

Dakota Osbourne is a Grade 9 student at Turner Fenton Secondary School in Brampton, and an artist in the making. He sketches and draws and is developing art skills at Regeneration, an organization which helps people having a hard time. Regeneration serves daily breakfasts, supplemented by things to do.

Among those activities is an art program. On Mondays, Regeneration provides the materials, the place, and the coaching for painting, sketching, and developing art skills. There's no charge.

Dakota's favourite art subject is cars, but he also enjoys sketching people, animals, and appliances.

Besides his artistic skills, friends find Dakota likes people — at a special event, he made a point of chatting with Bill Burrell, who was a gunner in Canadian Air Force bombers in World War II.

Dakota will always lend a hand in the kitchen at Regeneration or at Redemption, another helping agency.

Dakota contributed to my latest painting "Our Native Land" by sketching a face in the right-hand corner, adding depth to my work.

Thank you, Dakota.



Muslim charity serves 30 countries

Islamic Relief Canada began in Mississauga 10 years ago and is now the largest Muslim charity in this country.

Says Shaila Kibria of Brampton, an early member and now on staff with the organization: "It's no wonder that Peel is the biggest donor base in all of Canada

for Islamic Relief, when 12% of the Canadian Muslim population lives here."

Islamic Relief Worldwide began in Britain more than 40 years ago, and now has 40 offices across the globe.

Canada alone serves 30 countries, funding projects that provide clean water, education, encourage farm-

ing so that communities can work toward self-sufficiency in food.

In the 2016-17 financial period, Islamic Relief Canada raised \$30m to help people around the world who are impoverished by natural disasters. Find out more at www.islamicreliefcanada.org

**Region
of Peel**
working with you

Visit peelregion.ca

 @regionofpeel

Peel Region Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) 2018/2019 Call for Proposals

Support Services and Capital Projects

Submission Deadline: Monday, November 20th, 2017

Visit our website for more information

www.peelregion.ca/communityinvestments/hps



Diversity by the book!

ToughTomes

BY LAURA BILYEA, Librarian
Central Library, Mississauga

People from all over the world make their homes in Peel Region. Walking down our streets we hear a musical variety of languages. At community potlucks, we taste food from many cultures. Clothing styles and fabrics from all around the world abound. We have international festivals every weekend of the summer, helping everyone experience the sounds, colours and tastes of many places.

Our own community can give us international knowledge without even a plane ticket. So can your local library.

Is there a part of the world you would like to learn more about? Borrow books that take you through cities and the countryside like **The Rough Guide to Spain**.

Want to hear Spain instead? There's **The Rough Guide to Flamenco Nuevo**.

Want to taste Spain? Look for **Curate: authentic Spanish food from an American Kitchen** or **Seasonal Spanish Food** in the cooking section.

Want to watch a Spanish movie? Try **Ladrones** and put on the subtitles!

Read in Spanish? We have books like **El Husar** by Arturo Perez-Reverte about Spain, or **Ines del Alma Mia** by Isabel Allende about Chile.

Interested in the history of Spain? How about **A Short History of**

The Spanish Civil War by Julian Casanova. Are you an art lover? Look through our art books at the beautiful paintings by El Greco, Velazquez, Goya, and Picasso.

We can repeat this same procedure with any country and watch the results that come up! Drop by your local library and see what you can find!



LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!

Peel Poverty Action Group (PPAG) is calling on individuals, organizations, collaboratives, in Peel to join in producing a documentary about mental health in the Region.

PPAG needs organizations or individuals who:

- work in mental health and can connect to volunteers willing to share their stories (on-camera, off-camera, or anonymously);
- have production-related expertise and lived experience of mental health challenges;
- can help with specific research related to any aspect of mental health in Peel;
- can help find \$20,000 and in-kind support to make the documentary;
- anything else an organization, group or collective likes to offer.

About the proposed documentary:

The volunteer producers of the proposed documentary are Arshed Bhatti of Punjabi Community Health Services, and André Lyn who was project manager for PPAG's 2011 documentary *Places and Spaces: Uncovering Homelessness in the Region of Peel*.

The estimated budget of \$20,000 assumes lots of in-kind support and help from the community, leading to a high-quality, high-impact documentary. Grant funding is not currently available.

It is important that most participants in this documentary, production team and those profiled, have lived with a mental health challenge or illness, or have provided support, services, programs, resources to a relative, friend or client.

How to get involved:

If you are living or working in Peel, are passionate about highlighting mental health challenges and increasing awareness so as to reduce stigma, leading to better and timely access to services, support and care in Peel, email Peel.Stories@gmail.com

Production should start in early January 2018, so email by November 30, 2017.

NORTH PEEL & DUFFERIN Community Legal Services

- Free legal services for low income residents of Brampton, Caledon and Dufferin County
- Problems with your landlord?
- Is your rent subsidy threatened?
- Was your application for Ontario Disability Support Program benefits denied?
- Problems with Ontario Works?

905-455-0160 Toll Free from Dufferin 1-866-455-0160 npdinfo@lao.on.ca

PEEL CHILDREN'S CENTRE

offers free, immediate support for youngsters under age 18 experiencing a mental health crisis.

The Crisis Response Service is available 24/7, including weekends and holidays.

Youngsters, parents or caregivers can phone

416-410-8615

IT'S ALL A PLOT

Digging into gardening

If you don't have your own backyard, or don't want to grow veggies in it, think about getting a garden plot.

Mississauga has seven places, each with multiple garden plots available to residents. But there's a waiting list for each plot.

Register now if you want to dig into gardening in 2018.

Brampton digs it differently. Individuals can't rent a plot, but they can register to take part in a Community Garden Program, working with others to grow food at one of four community gardens. Participants are invited to give some of the harvest to local food banks.

The Mississauga Plot

There's a \$25 fee (which will be waived if you ask) for an individual plot, and you are expected to contribute at least four volunteer hours to the common



good -- filling rain barrels, mulching pathways, turning compost, etc.

Ecosource provides shared garden tools and equipment, while gardeners provide their own seeds and plants and the harvest is theirs to take home.

Community plots are also available,

shared among groups from the community -- for instance employees of a company or a local church or social group. The food produced may be donated to local food banks, or used in a community program.

Check the website <http://ecosource.ca/community-gardens/>

The Brampton Plot

The City of Brampton does not run an allotment garden program where residents pay for a plot. Instead it runs a Community Garden Program in which residents register to use a free plot at one of four community gardens.

Participants are invited to donate part of their harvest to a local food bank.

The gardens are located at Norton Park, Creditview Park, McMurchy (behind the Kiwanis building) and Crawley Park.

A new community garden is being installed at Sesqui Park for the 2018 season.

Currently all gardens are taken and there is a waiting list for each. Current participants can renew their plot annually, but every year some leave. Check the website <http://www.brampton.ca/EN/residents/parks/Pages/Community-Gardens.aspx>

PEEL FOOD CHARTER

Something to chew on

It's been five years in the making, and the Peel Food Charter is about to make its debut.

Like most modern charters, it has a vision. In this case "A just, sustainable and secure food system for now and the future."

The charter also has a purpose: "To.....ensure we meet the needs and reflect the diversity of all who live and work in Peel," which is quite the challenge, given

the cultural and racial mix of Peel.

Food security exists, says the Charter "when all people at all times have physical social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life."

But that level of security has not yet arrived, according to documents presented earlier this year. Up

to 14% of Peel households know some level of food insecurity; children are more than half the visitors to food banks serviced by Mississauga Food Bank.

The plan now is to launch the Charter to the public, so everyone will know there's a problem and want to do something about it.

As of now, the Charter is just words on paper. Educational, but not edible.

NEED FOOD?

غذا درکار ہے؟
 ਭੋਜਨ ਦੀ ਜ਼ਰੂਰਤ؟
 需要食物吗？
 Cần thực phẩm?
 هل تحتاج إلى الطعام؟
 ¿Necesita comida?



Don't Go Hungry

If you don't have enough money for food and live in Mississauga, you can go to a neighbourhood food bank.

It doesn't matter about your age, gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, or immigration status. You will receive enough healthy food to feed your family for 7-10 days each month. There is no cost to visit a food bank.

Find your food bank at
www.themississaugafoodbank.org
 or phone 905.270.5589.



MEET Jagmeet



Jagmeet Singh works on familiar turf with New Democrat and union activist Eugene Feltham, who lives in Singh's erstwhile provincial riding of Bramalea-Gore-Malton. Feltham, now 65, brings a working lifetime of building the Teamsters union and later Steelworkers in Peel. He's been chief steward at his workplaces, is now president of the 80-member Peel area branch of Steelworkers Organized Active Retirees (SOAR) and he's sergeant-at-arms for Peel District Labour Council. *(All photos in Jagmeet Singh feature supplied by the federal New Democratic Party)*



In Jagmeet's footsteps:

A TV personality, published author, and currently president of the Ontario Black History Society is running for the New Democratic Party in the provincial election slated for June 7, 2018. Nikki Clarke is running in part of the area vacated by Jagmeet Singh when he became leader of the federal New Democrats in October.

Clarke is looking for votes in Mississauga Malton riding, a new provincial constituency matching the federal riding in reaching from Malton west to roughly Creditview Road, with Brampton the northern border and mostly Eglinton on the south.

Clarke was Family Program manager of Malton Neighbourhood Services for years, and involved with the Association of Early Childhood Educators in Peel. She is the author/compiler of *Transforming Lives One Story at a Time: Powerful Stories of Success and Inspiration*, which includes contributions by several published authors. *(Photo by Roy Contreras)*



A campaign for mobility

About 13,000 families and single people are on a waiting list for subsidized housing in Peel. They need subsidies because some are now paying more than they can afford in rent to private landlords, some don't have a place big enough for all family members. Families may be receiving cash from Ontario Works while they look for work; others may not be paid enough in their jobs to support themselves; still others receive help through Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). Check Page 10 of Tough Times to see how little is not enough.

Then there are 123 needy Peel residents who are in wheelchairs or similar, possibly getting financial help from ODSP, which, once again, is not enough.

Being cash-poor in a wheelchair or reliant on a walker is very different to being cash-poor but mobile. There are few places that are wheelchair friendly. Brenda Murdock knows that first-hand. She has been crippled with arthritis since childhood, and may be homeless (again) from mid-November when she must leave the Cawthra shelter in Mississauga which has been her home for months.

Because of Brenda and others in wheelchairs, and because an aging population will bring greater demand for "accessible" homes, Tough Times and Peel Poverty Action Group are campaigning for more accessible places to be built, as people with mobility problems are in special need.

Think about it: 123 people in wheelchairs is a small number. Housing designed for accessibility from the get-go does not cost significantly more. Wheelchair users can be accommodated. The task of housing them is do-able.

Here is some background:

Shelters for the homeless are not rife with "accessible" units – doorways wide enough to get a wheelchair in, and areas inside where wheelchairs can turn; no step-over curb at the shower, grab bars in shower and toilet, reachable taps and levers rather than knobs on doors.

This is the "accessible" count for shelters in Peel:

Wilkinson Road men's shelter – two beds

Cawthra Road shelter – one bed

Peel Family shelter – two units

Transitional housing where residents get more support services:

Angela's Place – one unit

Peel Youth Village – all residential floors are accessible but none of the 48 units are fully barrier-free.

There's some good news:

Changes in the Building Code over the years have brought new buildings closer to accessibility. More ramps, fewer steps, accessible toilets, grab bars, light switches within reach and more.

Check *What Peel is building for wheelchairs and others*

What Peel is building for the wheelchair crowd – and others

ACCESSIBILITY IS THE KEY WORD

About Ontario's Building Code

Ontario's Building Code establishes the minimum standards for the construction of the buildings in which all Ontarians live, work and play. By providing clear and consistent standards, Ontario's Building Code helps keep Ontarians safe, facilitates the work of builders and developers, and supports key government priorities.

Barrier-free design has been part of Ontario's Building Code since 1975, to achieve an accessible Ontario by 2025.

Updated accessibility requirements

Requirements amended Jan. 1, 2015, will enhance accessibility in newly-constructed and existing buildings that are to be extensively renovated.

Visible suites in apartment buildings

New amendments increase from 10 per cent to 15 per cent the minimum number of suites within a multi-unit residential building that must be designed with basic accessibility features. These accessible features have also been updated, and will provide a barrier-free path of travel and doorway into a bedroom, full bathroom, kitchen and living room. These suites must be distributed throughout the building and must represent the types and sizes of suites otherwise available in the building.

For more information about changes to the Building Code, check <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page10547.aspx>

For more information about the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, check <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/01o32>

What's happening in Peel:

Accessibility features in Regionally-owned apartment buildings:

- Barrier-free access to the main building entrance and around the building
- Lobby entrances with sliding doors and automatic door openers
- In seniors buildings, continuous handrail on one side of main corridors



Brenda Murdock is 54 now, has spent a lifetime with arthritis so that she needs a walker everywhere she goes and living space to accommodate it. She is among the 123 people in wheelchairs or similar who are on Peel's waiting list for social housing. So-called "accessible" places are in short supply. As Tough Times went to press, Murdock was living in an "accessible" unit in a shelter on Cawthra Road, Mississauga, had been told she must move out in mid-November, but had nowhere to go. Tough Times and Peel Poverty Action Group are campaigning for more care for people in wheelchairs. Want to help? Email toughtimestab-loid@primus.ca *(Tough Times photo)*

- Barrier-free public washrooms -- 1500mm turning radius, barrier-free toilet and sink, grab bars, automatic door openers
- Automatic door openers and residents-only entry system for laundry rooms, function rooms, bicycle rooms, amenity space, garbage rooms, and other common rooms
- Elevators with Braille controls and voice announcements

Universally accessible features for all units:

- 900mm (three-foot) wide entry door to all units
- Lever handles for all doors
- Bathroom and kitchen faucets with lever handles
- Light switches 1200mm (4ft) high
- Receptacles 400mm (1.3 ft) above floor level

Modifiable unit features – all features above plus:

- Kitchen with 1500 mm (5 ft) turning radius for wheelchair access
- Bathroom with 1500 mm (5 ft) turning radius for wheelchair access
- Metal grab bars present in 1 bathroom (seniors buildings only)
- Backing in wall for future installation of grab bars, where grab bars not already installed
- 1100mm (3.6 ft) wide corridors within the unit

Fully barrier-free unit features – all features above plus:

- Automatic door operator with resident-only key system for the unit entry door
- Kitchen with barrier free cabinets and appliances
- One bathroom with roll-in shower and barrier-free toilet and sink

NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

Units listed below are in the eight most recently built new affordable housing units owned by the Region of Peel or a third-party:

Region of Peel-owned buildings:

- Walker Road Expansion (25 units), Seniors housing, Caledon – one fully barrier-free one-bedroom unit.
- Chapelview (200 units), singles and seniors housing, Brampton – four fully barrier-free one-bedroom units.
- Creditvale Mills (250 units), singles, seniors and family housing, Mississauga – three fully barrier-free



The 205-unit Hansen Project – partnership between the Region of Peel and Services and Housing in the Province (SHIP)

- one-bedroom family units and one fully barrier-free two-bedroom family unit; plus six fully barrier-free one-bedroom seniors units and one fully barrier-free two-bedroom seniors unit. There is also a total of 13 modifiable units in the buildings.
- Nance Horwood (30 units), older adults housing, Brampton – three fully barrier-free one-bedroom units.
- Norton Lake (200 units), singles, seniors and family housing, Brampton – six fully barrier-free one-bedroom seniors units and four fully barrier-free family two-bedroom units. Also, 180 modifiable units.
- _Snelgrove Place (94 units), seniors housing, Brampton - three fully barrier-free one bedroom units and eight modifiable units in the building.

Third-party owned:

- Hansen Project (205 units), singles, seniors and family housing, Brampton – three fully barrier-free one-bedroom units.
- Villa Polonia (225 units), seniors and family housing, Brampton – two fully barrier-free one-bedroom seniors units.

SOCIAL HOUSING

These units are in 47 social housing provider locations that the Region of Peel oversees as Service Manager. While the units noted are considered "modified" they

do not necessarily meet accessible design definitions, as this is older housing stock built prior to recent accessibility changes to the Building Code:

- bachelor – 60 units
- one bedroom – 137 units
- two bedroom – 97 units
- three bedroom – 11 units
- four/five bedroom – 0 units

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Region of Peel Accessibility Standards, online at <http://peelregion.ca/housing/housinghomelessness/pdfs/Region-of-Peel-Accessibility-Standards.pdf>
- All new affordable housing developments need to meet the following accessibility criteria: 100% of units are to be universally accessible; 15% of units are to be modifiable; and Fully barrier-free unit count will be determined during the design stage of the project, based on data regarding need available.
- Region of Peel's design guidelines and standards for new developments can be found at <http://peelregion.ca/housing/housinghomelessness/building-in-peel.htm>

Thanks to Wendy Priddle and other Region of Peel staff for research on wheel-chair accessible housing within the Region of Peel.

CALLING ALL BREADWINNERS

Precarious work and what you can do about it

BY NAVI AUJLA

In 2013, a report by United Way and McMaster University established that 52% of workers in the GTA and Hamilton area have temporary, contract, or part-time jobs. The effects of precarious work can include mental health issues, less participation in civic life and disruption in the family.

But precarious work has become the new reality. That is why the Fight for \$15 and Fairness has become significant. The purpose of this campaign is to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, while improving our Employment Standards Act and Labour Relations Act. Demands around fairness include better scheduling, paid sick days, respect at work, easier access to unionization, and rules that protect everyone.

The Brampton Chapter of \$15 and Fairness has been campaigning for a year, knowing that many residents are already in precarious jobs and that Peel, with numerous racialized and immigrant workers, can become choice territory for temporary employment agencies. (Reportedly, up to 1,700 temporary employment agencies already operate in the GTA.)

The Brampton Chapter is collecting stories from temp workers, who report they are assigned to dangerous tasks, must work fast or be fired, are not paid enough to cover their own household bills so must work at several jobs involving several job agencies. They complain of disrespect at work, of being paid sub-minimum wages in cash or by personal cheque. They are made to feel

“invisible and expendable.”

The \$15 and Fairness Campaign claims some victories: the Ontario government has announced it will raise the minimum wage to \$15 and update labour laws; October 1st marked the 4th year that the Ontario minimum wage has been indexed to inflation -- the minimum increased by 20¢ to \$11.60 an hour. This is still not enough. And sub-standard wages remain for students under 18, paid a minimum of \$10.90 per hour, and liquor servers, whose minimum is even less at \$10.10 per hour.

Over 1.7 million workers urgently need a \$15 minimum wage, which the Ontario government plans to phase in by January 1, 2019, through Bill 148. Well and good. But other provisions of this Bill are not so certain and we must campaign to fix them.

Equal Pay provisions could help precariously-employed workers who are on part-time, temp agency assignments. Most of these workers are women, immigrant or racialized workers, paid at lower rates for work similar to full-time employees. It is crucial that Workers' Rights, Equal Pay and Seniority are respected, regardless of a worker's position at work. And Fair Schedules allow workers to plan their lives, manage family responsibilities -- or a second, alternative job.

Fair employment requires strengthening Bill 148. Visit your MPP and tell her/him how you feel. Check the letter on the Campaign website 15andfairness.org

To get involved in the Peel area, call Navi at (416) 837-3871. We can bring decent work to Ontario if we do it together!

LETTER CARRIERS STAMP ON UNFAIR LABOUR

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers is joining the fight for fair pay and fair working conditions.

A letter from Mike Palecek, national president of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), tells Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne that union members approve the \$15 minimum wage, fairer scheduling, emergency leave protections and equal pay for equal work broached in pending legislation.

But Palecek declares:

“Immediately following the announcement of the legislation, big business – led by millionaire CEOs – came out in force, declaring publicly just how much they stand to lose by being required to provide decent wages and working conditions. Their outcry exposed the truth that working people in this province have always known: big business makes huge profits off exploiting workers in low-wage and precarious jobs.

“CUPW has over 3000 members living in Peel Region and working at facilities like Gateway Mail Processing Plant, one of Canada Post network's largest distribution centres.

“Peel is home to many companies that profit from low-wage workers. Too many workers in this area are stuck in the vicious cycle of temporary work, exploited by both the temp agencies and the client companies. Others are forced to work as independent contractors in roles that should be categorized as full-time, permanent jobs. Those with permanent jobs are often part-time, struggling with unpredictable schedules and low wages, never knowing week-to-week if they will make ends meet, and hard-pressed to plan for the future.

“We know that temporary, contract and part-time workers are some of the most vulnerable workers and that women, immigrants, and people of colour make up a disproportionate percentage of these workers.

“Our members know that unionization is critical to ensuring truly fair workplaces. Bill 148 improves access to unionization for Ontario workers, but further steps are still needed.”



Calling all school workers...

If you worked for a school board in Ontario during either the 2012-13 or 2013-14 school year and your union was the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), you are eligible to share in a financial settlement reached by CUPE for the breach of your Charter Rights.

This settlement was agreed to following a successful Charter challenge by CUPE to Bill 115 (Putting Students First Act, 2012).

Make sure you are on the list to receive compensation.

Any questions or concerns, email bill115remedy@cupe.ca

Thanks for everything

I sincerely thank all of you for your support and solidarity during our 11-week battle with Swisport. All of our brothers and sisters from the picket lines were inspired and found strength in the overwhelming support. Our members shared pictures, stories, and messages from all over the world. Countless members of the labour movement visited our lines and inspired our members.

This has exemplified that the labour movement is strong and well. I assure you that you will always be able to count on support from Teamsters 419 and our members from Swisport.

In solidarity and with the utmost respect,

Harjinder S Badial, Vice President, Teamsters Local 419





LOOKING FOR A JOB? NEED A PLACE TO START?

Let's work on it.

TCET Mississauga Employment Services
50 Burnhamthorpe Road West, Suite 300
Mississauga, ON, L5B 3C2
(905) 949.0049

TCET Malton Employment Services
7420 Airport Road, Suite 104
Mississauga, ON, L4T 4E5
(905) 677.0007

TCET Brampton South Employment Services
7700 Hurontario Street, Unit 601
Brampton, ON, L6Y 4M3
(905) 457.4747

TCET Brampton East Employment Services
263 Queen Street East, Unit 14
Brampton, ON, L6W 4K6
(905) 595.0722

Job Placement Services | On-Site Expert Career Consultants | Employment Workshops
Access to High Speed Internet | Employment & Training Resources | Job Postings from Local Businesses

www.tcet.com/Jobs





OW & ODSP Rates and the Ontario Child Benefit as of September 30, 2017

The provincial government increased Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) rates, starting at the end of September.

IT'S MORE --- BUT NOT ENOUGH TO LIVE ON

The table below shows current and new Basic Needs and Maximum Shelter amounts for different family types, and maximum Ontario Child Benefits (OCB). The OCB was increased by the rate of inflation in July 2017.

Family Type	Current				New as of Sept 30, 2017			
OW	Basic Needs	Max Shelter	Max OCB	Total	Basic Needs	Max Shelter	Max OCB	Total
Single	\$330	\$376	\$0	\$706	\$337	\$384	\$0	\$721
Single Parent - 1 child	\$347	\$619	\$113	\$1,079	\$354	\$632	\$114	\$1,100
Single Parent - 2 children	\$347	\$672	\$226	\$1,245	\$354	\$686	\$229	\$1,269
Couple	\$476	\$619	\$0	\$1,095	\$486	\$632	\$0	\$1,118
Couple - 1 child	\$476	\$672	\$113	\$1,261	\$486	\$686	\$114	\$1,286
Couple - 2 children	\$476	\$729	\$226	\$1,431	\$486	\$744	\$229	\$1,459
ODSP								
Single	\$649	\$479	\$0	\$1,128	\$662	\$489	\$0	\$1,151
Single Parent - 1 child	\$792	\$753	\$113	\$1,658	\$805	\$769	\$114	\$1,688
Single Parent - 2 children	\$792	\$816	\$226	\$1,834	\$805	\$833	\$230	\$1,868
Couple	\$935	\$753	\$0	\$1,688	\$954	\$769	\$0	\$1,723
Couple - 1 child	\$935	\$816	\$113	\$1,864	\$954	\$833	\$114	\$1,901
Couple - 2 children	\$935	\$886	\$226	\$2,047	\$954	\$904	\$230	\$2,088

- Amounts shown are maximums and may not apply in every situation – for example, people whose actual housing charges are less than the maximum shelter amount will only receive the amount they pay.
- OCB amounts may be lower than the maximum, depending on the net income of the family, and families must file their income taxes in order to receive it. Children in the examples above are under age 18.
- Amounts for couples on ODSP apply only to situations where one person in the couple has a disability. People on OW / ODSP may be eligible for other provincial and federal benefits, such as the G/HST credit, the Ontario Trillium Benefit, or the Canada Child Benefit, and may qualify for other benefits through social assistance. Amounts vary.

Figures supplied by the Income Security Advocacy Centre and printed in Tough Times with permission

COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Getting older, getting help



**COUNCILLOR
GEORGE
CARLSON**

Programs and Resources for Older Adults in Peel

As a local councillor, I am often asked by older adults and their family members about programs and resources Mississauga offers. Here are some of them:

Tax Rebate

Mississauga offers a \$400 tax rebate on annual property taxes for low income seniors and low income persons with disabilities who own and occupy their own homes. If you receive benefits under the Guaranteed Income Supplement Program or the Ontario Disability Support Program, send an application form to the City before December 31 of the year in which the rebate is claimed. For more information, check www.mississauga.ca/taxassistance or phone 311.

Driveway Windrow Snow Clearing Program

Mississauga has a city-wide service to clear snow left at the bottom of a driveway after a snowplow has cleared the road.

Participation in the program is FREE for:

- Adults 65 or older who are eligible for financial assistance -- net individual income or combined family income below Low Income Cut Off amounts;
- Individuals who are physically disabled (verified by a health professional) and who are eligible for financial assistance -- net individual income or combined family income below Low Income Cut Off amounts

Participation in the program is \$200/ season for:

- Older adults 65 years or older who are not eligible for financial assistance
- Individuals who are physically disabled (as verified by a health professional) who are not eligible for financial assistance

Windrow clearing is available first-come, first-served. Apply at any Mississauga community centre. For more information, phone 311 or visit www.mississauga.ca/drivewaywindrowprogram

Stormwater Subsidy Program

A Stormwater Subsidy Program offsets a new charge



that pays for drains and such to handle heavy rains. Low-income seniors and low-income persons with disabilities who may be eligible for the subsidy are automatically identified through the existing property tax rebate process. For more information about this subsidy, please visit www.mississauga.ca/stormwater/residential-charge

Yard Maintenance Subsidy Program

A Yard Maintenance Subsidy pays up to a maximum of \$200 a year for snow clearing and grass cutting for a residence (not a highrise or multi-unit building) where the resident 65 or older and receiving the Guaranteed Income Supplement; or is physically disabled and receiving income support under the Ontario Disability Support Program or under the Ontario Works Support Act. For more information check www.mississauga.ca/portal/cityhall/yardmaintenance-subsidy or phone 311.

ActiveAssist Program

The City of Mississauga's ActiveAssist helps eligible low income families and individuals in Mississauga participate in the City's Recreation and Culture programs. Eligible families and individuals get \$275 per person per year deposited into a special account to pay for activities such as swimming, skating, fitness, or summer camps.

Be a resident of Mississauga

- Have a total net individual or combined family income below the Low Income Cut Off (LICO)

amounts established by Statistics Canada.

- Be able to provide current, official documentation that shows total family net income.

Applications for ActiveAssist may be completed in person at any Mississauga Community Centre, or the Customer Service Centre at Central Library. For more information phone 905-615-4100 or visit www.mississauga.ca/activeassist

For more information about Mississauga's programs and resources for older adults, check www.mississauga.ca/olderadults

George Carlson was elected in 2000 as councillor for Mississauga's Ward 11, including Streetsville, Credit Mills, Meadowvale Village, Meadowvale South, Credit Valley, Levi Creek, and Meadowvale Business Park. Before that, he was a school trustee for four terms, and operated several small businesses in Ward 11.

**Know your rights
@work**

**Workshops every month
Phone 905-699-7444**

Labour Community Services of Peel

Immunization Requirements for Students

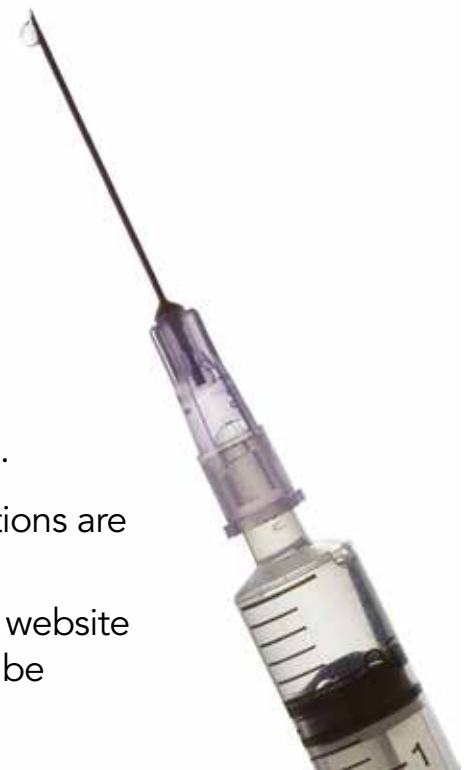
Parents, did you know your children need certain immunizations to attend school?

What you need to know:

- All children attending school in Ontario need to be immunized.
- You will receive a letter if your school-aged child doesn't have the required immunizations.
- Children who are not fully immunized may not be allowed to attend school.

To protect your child from serious diseases, make sure your child's immunizations are up-to-date and report their immunization records to Peel Public Health.

For more information or to report your child's immunizations, please visit our website ImmunizePeel.ca. Need help to find a doctor or clinic where your child can be immunized? Peel Public Health can help! Call us at **905-799-7700**.



Lets Beat the Flu

To find a free flu clinic near you, please call **Peel Public Health** at **905-799-7700** or visit peelregion.ca/flu for more information.

